

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 22 and 23 have been cancelled. Claims 31 – 33 have been added. Claims 1, 7, 17, 24, 25, and 27 have been amended, as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method for configuring a headless device, comprising:

sending, by a self-initiated configuration mechanism in the headless device, a configure service request to a configuration service mechanism across a network, the service request asking for a configuration specification corresponding to the headless device ;

receiving from the configuration service mechanism, the configuration specification to the self-initiated configuration mechanism at the headless device; and configuring, by the self-initiated configuration mechanism in the headless device, the headless device according to the configuration specification received from the configuration service mechanism

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further including:

registering the headless device, prior to the sending, with the configuration service mechanism using a device identification of the headless device.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the registering includes:

receiving, by the configuration service mechanism from a configuration specification set-up mechanism, a request to set up the configuration specification of the headless device, the request including the device identification;

recording the device identification of the headless device to register the headless device; and

storing the configuration specification of the headless device.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the sending includes:

requesting a routable address from a DHCP server;

selecting, if the routable address can not be retrieved from the DHCP server, an alternative routable address from at least one alternative routable address stored in an alternative routable address storage in the headless device; and

requesting the configuration from the configuration service mechanism using the device identification, that is to be used to identify the configuration specification, and the routable address or the alternative routable address, to where the configuration specification of the headless device is to be returned.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the returning includes:

receiving the configuration service request with the device identification and the routable address or the alternative routable address;

retrieving the configuration specification based on the device identification; and

sending the configuration specification, retrieved by the retrieving, to the routable address or the alternative routable address.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, further including:

receiving a request to update the existing configuration specification of a

headless device, the request including a device identification of the headless device; and

 updating the existing configuration specification of the headless device according to the request to generate updated configuration specification; and
 replacing the existing configuration specification with the updated configuration specification.

7. (currently amended) A method for a self-initiated configuration mechanism, comprising:

 determining a routable address;
 requesting, from a headless device, a configuration service mechanism to retrieve a configuration specification of the headless device, using a device identification of the headless device, and to send the configuration specification to the routable address;
 receiving the configuration specification at the routable address of the headless device; and
 configuring the headless device, at the headless device, according to the configuration specification.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the determining includes:

 requesting the routable address from a DHCP server; and
 selecting, if the address can not be retrieved from the DHCP server, an alternative routable address from at least one alternative routable address stored in an alternative routable address storage.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the receiving includes:
 - activating a time out mechanism that enforces a time out control according to a time out condition, the time out condition defining a length of time;
 - if the configuration specification is not received within the length of time and if the alternative routable address is determined by the selecting, returning to the selecting; and
 - if the configuration specification is not received within the length of time and if the routable address is determined by the server, returning to the requesting the configuration specification.
10. (previously presented) A method for a configuration service, comprising:
 - receiving a configure service request from a headless device with a device identification associated with the headless device;
 - initializing a configuration specification of the headless device, if the request requests to set up an initial configuration specification of the headless device with the configuration service;
 - updating the configuration specification of the headless device, if the request requests to update the current configuration specification of the headless device; and
 - forwarding the configuration specification of the headless device to a routable address received with the request, if the request requests a configuration service.
11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the initializing includes:
 - registering the headless device using the device identification;

setting up the initial configuration specification of the headless device; and
storing the initial configuration specification of the headless device as the current
configuration specification of the headless device.

12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the
updating includes:

updating the current configuration specification of the headless device to
generate an updated configuration specification of the headless device; and
replacing the current configuration specification with the updated configuration
specification.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the
forwarding includes:

retrieving the configuration specification of the headless device using the device
identification; and
sending the configuration specification, retrieved by the retrieving, to the routable
address.

Claims 14 – 16 (cancelled).

17. (currently amended) A headless device, comprising:
a communication mechanism for performing communications; and
a self-initiated configuration mechanism, within the headless device, for
configuring the headless device via a configuration service mechanism through the
communication mechanism by sending a configure service request to a configuration
service mechanism across a network, the service request asking for a configuration
specification corresponding to the headless device and receiving the configuration

specification from the configuration service mechanism.

18. (previously presented) The device according to claim 17, wherein the self-initiated configuration mechanism includes:

a routable address determination mechanism for determining a routable address to where the configuration service mechanism sends the configuration specification of the headless device;

a configuration specification retrieval mechanism for retrieving the configuration specification from the configuration service mechanism using a device identification, associated with the headless device, and the routable address; and

a configuration set up mechanism for configuring the headless device based on the configuration specification received from the configuration service mechanism.

19. (previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein the routable address determination mechanism includes:

a dynamic host configuration protocol based routable address determination mechanism for obtaining the routable address from a dynamic host configuration protocol server; and

an alternative routable address selection mechanism for selecting the routable address from at least one alternative routable address stored in the alternative routable address storage.

20. (previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein the configuration specification retrieval mechanism includes:

a request initiation mechanism for initiating a request to the configuration service mechanism to retrieve the configuration specification based on the device identification,

the request being sent with the device identification and the routable address, to where the retrieved configuration specification is sent; and

 a receiver for receiving, after the request is sent, the configuration specification from the configuration service mechanism.

21. (previously presented) The device according to claim 20, further including:

 a time out mechanism for controlling the receiver to receive the configuration specification within a length of time determined according to a time out condition.

Claims 22 and 23 (cancelled).

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for configuring a headless device, the program, when executed, causing:

 sending, by a self-initiated configuration mechanism in a headless device, a configure service request to a configuration service mechanism across a network, the service request asking for a configuration specification corresponding to the headless device;

 receiving from the configuration service mechanism, the configuration specification to the self-initiated configuration mechanism, at the headless device; and
 configuring, by the self-initiated configuration mechanism in the headless device, the headless device according to the configuration specification received from the configuration service mechanism.

25. (currently amended) The medium according to claim 24, wherein the program ~~further causes~~, when executed:

 receiving, prior to the sending, a request to register the headless device and its

corresponding configuration specification using a device identification sent with the request;

recording the device identification of the headless device; and
storing the configuration specification of the headless device.

Claim 26 (cancelled).

27. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for self-initiated configuration, the program, when executed, causing:
determining a routable address;
requesting, from a headless device, a configuration service mechanism to retrieve a configuration specification of the headless device according to a device identification of the headless device and to send the configuration specification to the routable address;
receiving the configuration specification, retrieved using a device identification and sent from the configuration service mechanism to the routable address at the headless device; and
configuring, at the headless device, the headless device according to the configuration specification.

28. (previously presented) The medium according to claim 27, wherein the determining includes:

requesting the routable address from a DHCP server; and
selecting, if the address for the server is not provided from the DHCP server, an alternative routable address from at least one alternative routable address stored in the alternative routable address storage of the headless device.

29. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for a configuration service, the program, when executed, causing:

- receiving a configure service request from a headless device with a device identification associated with the headless device;
- initializing a configuration specification of the headless device, if the request requests to set up an initial configuration specification of the headless device with the configuration service; and
- forwarding the configuration specification of the headless device to a routable address received with the request, if the request requests a configuration service.

30. (previously presented) The medium according to claim 29, wherein the program, when executed, causes:

updating the configuration specification of the headless device, if the request requests to update the current configuration specification of the headless device.

31. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the headless device is a device which has no means to receive user input except for a network interface card.

32. (new) The method of claim 7, wherein the headless device is a device which has no means to receive user input except for a network interface card.

33. (new) The headless device of claim 17, wherein the headless device is a device which has no means to receive user input except for a network interface card.